

**DAVID HARRIS MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND TREATY**

**BUDGET FAILS TO DELIVER FOR ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES**

The NSW Budget fails to deliver on key outcomes for Aboriginal Australians, with little to no funding allocated to Indigenous housing, land and water rights, the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage and important justice reforms.

The Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty David Harris said: “The Government needs to work harder to tackle disadvantage and legal inequity which many people in the Aboriginal community face every day.”

“In what should have been a stimulus budget to grow jobs and address inequity, the NSW Government has missed the opportunity to invest in housing and justice reinvestment despite record borrowings over the next four years,” Mr Harris said.

“The biggest single factor beside employment, is to have a quality place to live whether you’re a family or an elder in the Aboriginal community. Housing leads to better health outcomes and ultimately saves the Government money in the longer term.”

**Labor is committed to:**

- Funding justice reinvestment programs
- Introducing the Walama Court
- Properly funding social housing including Aboriginal housing to improve life outcomes for Aboriginal people
- Developing a road map for Treaty negotiations in NSW which would focus on service delivery agreements

“The Government talks big when it comes to meeting the challenges of Closing The Gap, but their neglect in this budget demonstrates that they have no real resolve to meet significant structural challenges which face Aboriginal people in this State,” Mr Harris added.

“NSW Labor supports comments by both Just Reinvest NSW and NSW Aboriginal Land Council that this budget represents a massive opportunity lost, the allocation in this budget falls far short of what’s required.”

In contrast, the Victorian Budget 2020/21 will deliver a historic \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build to construct more than 12,000 new homes throughout metro and regional Victoria, as well as supporting around 10,000 jobs, per year over the next four years.

**ENDS**

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